

Abstract

A high pressure chamber (23) in a casing (20) communicates at the bottom thereof with a liquid retainer (31). A communication pipe (34) is connected at one end thereof to the upper end of the liquid retainer (31) and connected at the other end thereof to an intake pipe (28). A gas container (35) and first and second solenoid valves (36, 37) are provided in the communication pipe (34). When the first solenoid valve (36) is closed and the second solenoid valve (37) is opened, the gas container (35) communicates with the intake pipe (28) to reduce the pressure in the gas container (35). Thereafter, when the first solenoid valve (36) is opened and the second solenoid valve (37) is closed, the gas container (35) communicates with the liquid retainer (31) to reduce the pressure in the liquid retainer (31). Then, the pressure of lubricant oil in the liquid retainer (31) is lowered to gasify a refrigerant dissolving in the lubricant oil. As a result, lubrication malfunction caused due to lowering of the viscosity of the lubricant oil by dissolution of the refrigerant therein is avoided and the reliability of the hermetic compressor is enhanced.